

Chakali language

Chakali is a Gur language of Ghana, spoken in several villages in the Wa East District of the Upper West Region. The majority of Chakali are bilingual in Wali.^[3]

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Phonology

Chakali phonology is typical of Gur languages, with tone, vowel harmony, and labial–velar consonant

Vowels

Chakali contrasts long and short vowels, as well as advanced and retracted tongue root vowels, which play a role in vowel harmony. While typically treated as a "neutral" vowel for tongue root harmony, /a/ might surface as [ɑ] following -ATR vowels, but this is not phonemic. Additionally, [ə] arises during epenthesis or vowel reduction.

	Front		Back	
	Unrounded		Rounded	
	−ATR	+ATR	−ATR	+ATR
<u>Close</u>	ɪ	ɨ	ʊ	u
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ	e	ɔ	o
<u>Open</u>	a			

All phonemic vowels can also appear nasalized, which is often due to the influence of a neighboring nasal consonant or glottal fricative. Nasal vowels do occur phonemically in certain words^[3], as demonstrated by near-minimal or minimal pairs:

- /zòò/ 'enter', /zòò̃/ 'laziness'
- /fáà/ 'ancient', /fáà̃/ 'do by force'

Chakali	
Region	Ghana
Native speakers	6,000 (2003) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gur<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gurunsi<ul style="list-style-type: none">Western<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chakali</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	cli
Glottolog	chak1271 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/chak1271) ^[2]



Chakali speaking villages in Ghana: Gurumbele, Motigu, Sogla, Tuosa, Tiisa and Katua

- /tùù/ 'go down', /túú/ 'honey'

Consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar/ Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Glottal</u>
				plain	labial	
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n	ɲ	ŋ	ŋ̠m	
<u>Stop</u>	p b	t d	ɕ ɟ	k g	k̠p ɡ̠	ʔ
<u>Fricative</u>	f v	s z				h
<u>Approximant</u>		l	j		w	
<u>Rhotic</u>		r~r				

- /t/ surfaces as [r] in word-final or word-medial onset position.^[3]
- /k/ and /g/ usually surface as [ɣ] between vowels.^[3]
- All nasals are realized as [ŋ] in word-final position.^[3]

Grammar

Chakali is a subject–verb–object language.

References

1. Chakali (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/cli/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Chakali" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chak1271>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Brindle, Jonathan A. (2017). *A Dictionary and Grammatical Outline of Chakali* (<https://zenodo.org/record/344813>). African Language Grammars and Dictionaries 2. Berlin: Language Science Press. doi:10.5281/zenodo.344813 (<https://doi.org/10.5281%2Fzenodo.344813>). ISBN 978-3-944675-91-6.

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